



**McGregor W. Scott**  
United States Attorney  
Eastern District of California

**NEWS RELEASE**

*Sacramento*  
501 I. Street, Ste 10-100  
Sacramento CA 95814  
(916) 554-2700

*Fresno*  
1130 O. Street, Rm 3654  
Fresno, CA 93721  
(559) 498-7272

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Michelle Rodriguez, 916-554-2773

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**MERCED COUNTY WOMAN GETS 32 MONTHS JAIL**  
**FOR HER AGGRAVATED IDENTITY THEFT SCHEMES**

SACRAMENTO—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that IDALINA MARIA TOSTE, 39, of Gustine, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Morrison C. England, Jr. to 32 months in federal custody and 60 months of supervised release for felony bank fraud and identity theft offenses. TOSTE was ordered to pay full restitution to the victims.

This case is the product of extensive combined investigation by the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Merced County Sheriffs Department, and the City of Gustine Police Department.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who prosecuted the case, from July 2007 through November 2007, TOSTE executed a check kiting scheme to steal money from banks and credit unions located in Stanislaus County, Merced County, and San Joaquin County. TOSTE stole social security numbers of numerous victims to open fraudulent bank and credit union accounts. TOSTE later deposited forged and fictitious checks, payable to herself and her alternate identities, in an attempt to steal in excess of \$33,500 from the financial institutions.

TOSTE was remanded into custody following imposition of her sentence.

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